



THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 18
MONTGOMERY COUNTY

July 10, 2019

Mr. Andre Futrell
District Engineer, Maryland State Highway Administration
9300 Kenilworth Avenue
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Dear Mr. Futrell,

We are writing on behalf of our constituents in Legislative District 18, the Town of Garrett Park, and the community of Garrett Park Estates and White Flint Park to strongly urge you to install a pedestrian sidewalk along the south side of Strathmore Avenue (MD 547), connecting the current sidewalks in the Town of Garrett Park to those at the intersection of Strathmore and Stillwater Avenues.

Currently, the State Highway Administration (SHA) is installing a storm water drainage system along the south side of Strathmore Avenue in front of the Holy Cross Church and School (4900 Strathmore Avenue). The community believes it not only to be timely and economical to install these much-needed sidewalks during construction, but critical for pedestrian safety and conformance with SHA's plan to "construct a sidewalk between the Town line and Rockville Pike" proposed in the 2002 Memorandum to the Montgomery County Planning Board dated March 1, 2002 (see attachment). The Town of Garrett Park, local civic associations, the Holy Cross Church and School, and area residents, have long requested the sidewalk be extended along Strathmore Avenue.

As you may know, the Town of Garrett Park and the residents of the Garrett Park Estates-White Flint Park neighborhood are proud of their accessible, walkable community. These neighborhoods are also situated in a fairly urban area with a high volume of pedestrian and vehicular traffic, and are also within walking distance of the Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Station. In order to walk or drive to the metro station or the school, residents must travel along Strathmore Avenue. Our constituents are particularly concerned with the unprotected proximity of pedestrians and vehicular traffic on Strathmore Avenue, the area's principal east-west traffic corridor between Rockville Pike (MD 355) and Beach Drive.

At present, a sidewalk runs along the south side of Strathmore Avenue from Rockville Pike to the vehicular entrance to the Academy of the Holy Cross (4920 Strathmore Avenue). However, after the entrance to the Academy, there is approximately a quarter-mile stretch along Strathmore

Avenue from the Academy to the Garrett Park Town line without any sidewalk. The existing wide shoulder presents a deceptively safe invitation to pedestrians. Residents, including school children, both walk and cross Strathmore regularly under heavy traffic conditions. We have witnessed these issues firsthand and share our constituents' concerns about the need to add connecting sidewalks.

In a move to improve pedestrian safety, SHA recently installed pedestrian safety islands at the intersections of Strathmore and Stillwater Avenues and Strathmore Avenue and Jolly Way/Symphony Park Drive. Installation of this section of sidewalk would build upon the existing SHA safety improvements and eliminate the largest remaining pedestrian hazard in the area.

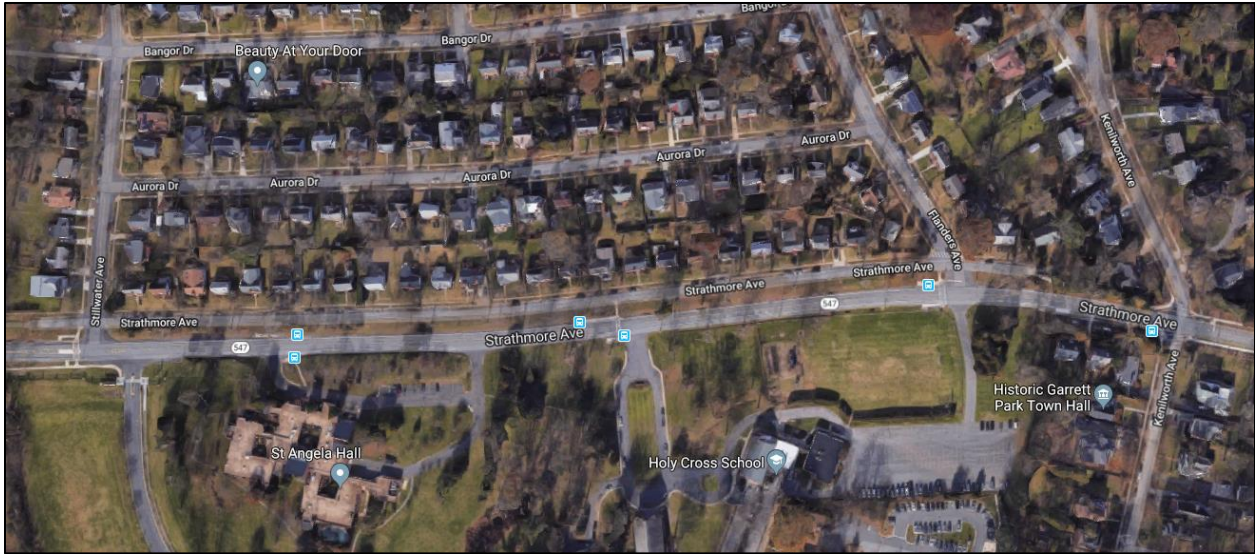
If it is helpful, we would be more than happy to meet with you and your staff at the site to determine how best to install a sidewalk during this construction period on Strathmore Avenue. Thank you for your consideration and attention to this important pedestrian safety matter.

Sincerely,

Senator Jeff Waldstreicher
Delegate Al Carr
Delegate Emily Shetty
Delegate Jared Solomon

Kacky Chantry, Mayor, Town of Garrett Park
Jane McClintock, Councilmember, Town of Garrett Park
Stephen Paczkowski, Councilmember, Town of Garrett Park
Phil Schulp, Councilmember, Town of Garrett Park
Dan Simons, Councilmember, Town of Garrett Park
Hans Wenger, Councilmember, Town of Garrett Park
Father Robert Buchmeier, Pastor, Holy Cross Church
Cindy Kratz, Chair, Parish Council, Holy Cross Catholic Church

cc: Al Roshdieh, Director, MCDOT
Andrew Friedson, Montgomery County Councilmember



Overhead of Area



Photos of the Section of Strathmore Avenue